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**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicant: Russell Vernon Hughes  
Serial No.: 10/048,206  
Filed: May 7, 2002  
Group Art Unit: 3742  
Examiner: Van, Quang T.  
Title: WELDING APPARATUS AND METHOD

**RESPONSE**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandra, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

This paper is responsive to the Office Action mailed on September 23, 2003. Claim 49-67 and 69-81 are pending in this application. Please amend the application as follows.

01/30/2004 CCHAU1 00000071 10048206

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